

March, 2009

Dear Friend,

*The Friends
of Shockoe Hill
Cemetery*



*Richmond's Oldest
Municipally-Owned
Cemetery (1822)*

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Douglas Welsh

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As spring comes closer with its promise of renewal, we continue to witness the rebirth of one of Richmond's oldest and most important landmarks: Shockoe Hill Cemetery, burial site of the Great Chief Justice John Marshall and other historic figures.

In just two and a half years since it was formed after my first inspection of the cemetery grounds in September 2006, the "Friends of Shockoe Hill Cemetery" had planned and coordinated several important upgrades and preservation projects. The perseverance and the hard work of many friends, both within the City administration and amongst our "Friends" group, made 2008 a most successful year, with the promise of more successes to come.

Here are some of the projects initiated by the "Friends" group to date:

- *Reviewed the Cemetery condition and created an action plan.
- *Published a formal cemetery rack card with description and map.
- *With the John Marshall Foundation, arranged placement of a state historic marker.
- *Arranged for the placement of directional signage from surrounding streets.
- *Applied for and secured membership with the Richmond Recreation and Parks Foundation, providing crucial administrative and technical support.
- *Witnessed an initial overhaul of the cemetery grounds by the City: trees trimmed, debris cleared, markers repaired, water system restored, "Keepers Building" stabilized, and roads resurfaced.
- *Have begun applying for special grants to help document markers and list interments.

And this is only the beginning! The coming year will require a continued commitment of time, talent and financial resources. With your support, we will be working with the City of Richmond in a special project to restore the inside of the "Keepers Building," so we can install special exhibits and provide a place for staff to stay when we open the cemetery for tours. There are also selected monuments which the City will need specialty support to repair.

Through your generous tax-deductible donation, we will be able to continue the restoration of the Cemetery to its 19th-century luster. Please use the enclosed link to contribute toward the planned renovations. As well as monetary contributions, we welcome your participation in the actual work of cleaning up and planting new trees, flowering shrubs and flowers. Our efforts today will be visible for generations to come.

You can make a difference! Make a gift now

Sincerely,

Doug Welsh
President

Online: <http://www.rrpfoundation.org/foshc/index.htm>

Mail: Send in membership/donation form

Telephone: (804) 339-6007

Free tours will be provided of the cemetery for donors and their families!